

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-45 (canceled)

Claim 46 (new): An isolated polynucleotide comprising 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 47 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 16 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 48 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 17 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 49 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 18 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 50 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 19 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 51 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 20 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 52 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide is DNA.

Claim 53 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide is RNA.

Claim 54 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46 wherein the polynucleotide is PNA.

Claim 55 (new): The polynucleotide of claim 46, further comprising a moiety that produces a signal or a binding site for a moiety that produces a signal when the polynucleotide hybridizes to *Pseudomonas* DNA.

Claim 56 (new): A kit for detecting *Pseudomonas*, comprising a polynucleotide comprising 10 contiguous nucleotides of the *Pseudomonas* 23S/5S intergenic region.

Claim 57 (new): The kit of claim 56 wherein the polynucleotide comprises 10 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID No. 1 or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 58 (new): A method for detecting *Pseudomonas* in a sample, comprising the step of contacting the sample with a first polynucleotide comprising 10 contiguous nucleotides of the *Pseudomonas* 23S/5S intergenic region, SEQ ID No. 1, or the complement of SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 59 (new): The method of claim 58, further comprising amplifying *Pseudomonas* DNA using the first polynucleotide and a second polynucleotide comprising 10 contiguous nucleotides of the *Pseudomonas* 23S/5S intergenic region, SEQ ID No. 1, the complement of SEQ ID No. 1, the 23S gene, or the 5S gene.

Claim 60 (new): The method of claim 59 wherein the first polynucleotide is SEQ ID No. 3 or SEQ ID No. 5 and the second polynucleotide is SEQ ID No. 2.

Claim 61 (new): The method of claim 58 wherein the first polynucleotide further comprises a moiety that produces a signal or a binding site for a moiety that produces a signal when the polynucleotide hybridizes to *Pseudomonas* DNA.

Claim 62 (new): The method of claim 58 wherein the *Pseudomonas* is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

Claim 63 (new): The method of claim 58 wherein the first polynucleotide differentially hybridizes to DNA from different strains or species of *Pseudomonas*.

Claim 64 (new): The method of claim 59 wherein the second polynucleotide differentially hybridizes to DNA from different strains or species of *Pseudomonas*.